

# 'EDIS' assists community's children

## *Panzer-based clinic offers family-focused services*

By Mildred Green

**H**elp is at hand for Stuttgart residents with developmental delays or disabilities or who may be at risk for these conditions.

Located next to the Stuttgart Veterinary Clinic on Panzer Kaserne, the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services Clinic provides a variety of services for children and young adults through two programs.

Children ages newborn to 3 years old make up the early intervention, or EI, program, and children and young adults ages 3 to 21 years old fall under the related services, or RS, program.

Since EDIS is a fully-staffed clinic, services can be tailored to a client's specific needs and may include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech pathology, audiology, child psychology, social work or sessions with an early childhood special educator.

### *Early intervention*

Many of the therapies offered under the EI program are provided in the children's everyday environments and are incorporated into their daily routines.

"Natural environment and family routine is key," said Lisa Lindman, occupational therapist for EDIS.

Therapy can be done in the family's home, at a day care facility or wherever else the parent prefers.

The parent's concerns are what drive the EI program, said Anne Walker, program manager and social worker.

Because therapists cannot be with each child for more than a few hours a week, parental and daycare provider involvement is incorporated into the therapy. They are given strategies to

help their children throughout the week.

The services EDIS provides as part of the EI program include speech therapy, early intervention education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and hearing screenings and evaluations.

The goal for the EI program is "to get the child caught up by age 3, before the child's delays become problematic or develop into other problems which will significantly impact the child's future educational process," said EDIS Speech Pathologist Jennifer Bragg.

### *Related services*

In the RS program, a strong emphasis is placed on education, Walker said.

"Plans and interventions are directly related to the educational needs of the student in order to assure academic performance and success," she added.

RS School Occupational Therapist Lorna Netupsky-Lang echoed this sentiment. She said her job is to "help kids meet their educational goals."

The RS program offers assistance through occupational therapy, physical therapy, child psychology and social work.

Speech services, however, are provided by a school's speech pathologist.

In addition, Department of Defense Dependent Schools have an EDIS liaison to assist them with their programs.

EDIS offers assistance in the following categories: developmental delay and emotional, communication, learning and other health impairments.

When therapies overlap, therapists consult each other and work together to provide the most beneficial therapy for both the child and the family.

### **Additional EDIS Information**

■ To contact the EDIS clinic call 431-2697/civ. 07031-15- 697.

■ The clinic is located in building 2996 on Panzer Kaserne.

■ For online information visit [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil). Select "Edu/Dev. Intervention Svcs." from the "Services" drop-down menu.

### *In the community*

The EDIS Clinic strives to make it simpler for parents and organizations in the community to get the help they need, Walker said. EDIS therapists can be found at functions and activities throughout the community, such as the Stuttgart Health and Wellness Fair, Well Baby screenings and Child Find activities.

The EDIS clinic also provides questionnaires for parents with children ages 4 months to 5 years. The questionnaires are used as learning and teaching tools to screen for the appropriate development of children at various ages.

Walker said that the questionnaires are "parent-answered tools, which can be easily scored by parents to see how their child compares to the 'norm' in child development."

Questionnaires can be obtained from EDIS staff member at the Well Baby clinics that are held every Tuesday in the Stuttgart Health Clinic.